



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

February 26, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

We are writing to urge that amendments that would repeal any or all of our laws regulating firearms or would prohibit the Council from legislating in this area not be adopted by the Senate. The District of Columbia leadership is fully united in its opposition to unwarranted amendments that would dramatically damage the District's carefully revised gun law and expose the District to great harm through the undoing of its laws.

Following the Supreme Court decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 128 S. Ct. 2783 (2008), which held that the Second Amendment guarantees an individual's right to possess a firearm for the lawful purpose of self-defense within the home, the District acted swiftly and unanimously to address this legal void and ensure its compliance with the law. This was accomplished through the passage of Bill 17-843, the "Firearms Registration Amendment Act of 2008". This legislation was crafted to reflect best practices from around the country as well as respond to the Court's ruling. This legislation, and the District's ability to develop these laws, is crucial to securing the safety of District citizens and the dignitaries from around the world that visit and do business in our city.

It would be ironic in the worst sense that on the eve of this historic vote speaking to representation in the national legislature that an amendment would simultaneously strip away the local legislature's authority to enact laws to control gun violence. We ask for your full support in opposing any amendment.

Sincerely,

Vincent C. Gray
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia

Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary

